

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method comprising:
maintaining peripheral device control information in a portable communication device; and
selectively transmitting the peripheral device control information to at least one peripheral device
 2. The method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:
causing the peripheral device to operatively respond to the peripheral device control information.
 3. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the peripheral device control information includes configuration information.
 4. The method as recited in Claim 3, wherein the configuration information includes a unique network device address.
 5. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the portable communication device is selected from a group of portable communication devices comprising a cellular telephone, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a portable computer, and a special-purpose portable communication device.
 6. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein transferring the peripheral device control information to the peripheral device further includes

transmitting at least a portion of the peripheral device control information over a communication link configured to carry at least one signal selected from a group of signals comprising an electrical signal, an optical signal, a radio frequency (RF) signal, and an infrared (IR) signal.

7. The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the communication link is further configured to provide bi-directional communication between the portable communication device and the peripheral device.

8. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein maintaining the peripheral device control information in the portable communication device further includes receiving the peripheral device control information through a user interface portion of the portable communication device.

9. The method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the user interface portion of the portable communication device includes a display and a keypad.

10. The method as recited in Claim 1, wherein maintaining the peripheral device control information in the portable communication device further includes receiving the peripheral device control information from a computer operatively coupled to the portable communication device.

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11. An arrangement comprising:

a portable communications device having:

logic that is configured to maintain peripheral device control information, and

a communication interface operatively coupled to the logic and configurable to selectively transmit a signal having at least a portion of the peripheral device control information therein.

12. The arrangement as recited in Claim 11, further comprising:

a peripheral device operatively configured to receive the signal from the portable communication device and to operatively respond to the peripheral device control information contained within the signal.

13. The arrangement as recited in Claim 11, wherein the peripheral device control information includes configuration information.

14. The arrangement as recited in Claim 13, wherein the configuration information includes a unique network device address.

15. The arrangement as recited in Claim 11, wherein the portable communication device is selected from a group of portable communication devices comprising a cellular telephone, a pager, a personal digital assistant (PDA), a portable computer, and a special-purpose portable communication device.

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16. The arrangement as recited in Claim 12, wherein the signal is selected from a group of signals comprising an electrical signal, an optical signal, a radio frequency (RF) signal, and an infrared (IR) signal.

17. The arrangement as recited in Claim 16, wherein the portable communication device and the peripheral device are operatively configured to provide bi-directional communication there between.

18. The arrangement as recited in Claim 11, wherein the portable communication device further includes:

a user interface portion operatively coupled to the logic and configurable to allow users to identify the peripheral device control information.

19. The arrangement as recited in Claim 18, wherein the user interface portion includes a display and a keypad, each being operatively coupled to the logic.

20. The arrangement as recited in Claim 11, further comprising:

a computer that is operatively coupled to the portable communication device and configured to identify the peripheral device control information.